inducted five and eight aircraft respectively on dry lease basis during the period 1998-1999 to 2001 -2002.

Helicopter Service for North-Eastern Region

1350. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reopen the helicopter services connecting major North-Eastern cities for VIPs and as well as general public:

(b) if not, whether these services would be provided as per schedule or request; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has been providing helicopter services under the aegis of Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya

A Dauphin helicopter of PHHL is also deployed at Guwahati by the Ministry of Home Affairs every year from October to May for transportation of VIPs and other senior officials.

Government has also agreed to provide 75% as susidy for helicopter operations in the State of Tripura by PHHL.

PHHL has also submitted proposals to Governments of Nagaland and Mizoram for operation of helicopters in these States. However, both States have not responded so far.

Delay In Leasing Out of Airports

1351. DR.T.SUBBRAMIREDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to lease out major airports could not take off due to the delay in amending the Airports Authority of India's Act;